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As you know, NDEP and EPA completed a soil sampling event in October 2012 in Eureka at approximately one quarter of the properties in town, including properties owned by the Eureka School District. NDEP and EPA are continuing to evaluate the results of that sampling. We are also working on development of threshold concentrations of lead and arsenic in soil where cleanup actions this year may be recommended. In order to refine the number of properties that may be offered cleanup, NDEP and EPA will be requesting access to conduct an additional final round of sampling in April or May at properties that were not sampled in October 2012. The actual date of sampling will depend on contractor scheduling and the presence of snow/ice cover.

Next week, NDEP plans to mail out the attached package to property owners, including Eureka County, who did not provide access in October 2012. The package will include:

1. A flyer with some basic information on the upcoming sampling, October 2012 sampling results, recommended steps for reducing exposure to lead and arsenic in soil, and recommended steps for managing soil with lead and arsenic;
2. An access cover letter request and access agreement (similar to what was mailed to property owners in September 2012); and
3. A more detailed description of the October 2012 sampling results, including two maps showing estimated levels of lead and arsenic throughout town and between the properties sampled.

NDEP staff are also planning to be in town during the week of March 11 to talk with individual residents informally about the sampling procedures and answer any questions.

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